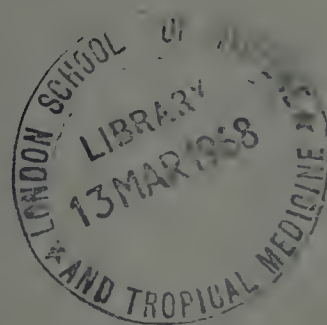




PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

1964



POTTERS BAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(M. I. OUTRAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

for the Year 1964

together with

THE REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(J. H. Rooley, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

6th August, 1964⁵.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Potters Bar Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1964, which has been compiled in accordance with Circular 1/65 received from the Ministry of Health.

The statistics on pages 4 and 5, show no unusual changes in the various rates given. The increase in the birth rate was rather more than that for the country as a whole and the infantile mortality rate showed an unwelcome increase from 12.3 to 19.6. Too much importance should not be paid to this figure, however, as the actual number of deaths is small. Details of the causes of death are shown on page 6, and although the number of deaths from bronchitis decreased for the first time for some years there is no justification for the suspension of any efforts directed against one of its main causes - i.e. atmospheric pollution. During the period 1960/64 the average number of deaths per annum from bronchitis per 10,000 population of the district was 5.5. Ten years ago in the period 1950/54 the comparative figure was 2.6.

As pointed out in my report for 1963, the incidence of Measles varies in alternate years, and in 1964 only 27 cases were notified. The total number of all infectious disease cases was very small. Details of an outbreak of suspected food poisoning, which occurred after a wedding reception, are given in later pages of the report. The results were not conclusive. Last year I referred to a man who was a carrier of paratyphoid. Because of the circumstances, the man sold his food business, and at the end of the year he was still excreting the organisms of paratyphoid. He is at the present time undergoing a further course of treatment which, it is hoped, will destroy the infection.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge with gratitude the cheerful and willing help I always receive from all members of the Public Health staff, and especially my thanks are due to Mr. Rooley and Mr. Rixson for the excellent work carried out by them.

I am,
Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

M.I. OUTRAM

Medical Officer of Health

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE AREA

Area	6,129 acres
Population (mid 1964 - Registrar General's Estimate)	24,120
Number of inhabited houses (1st April, 1964)	7,685
Rateable Value (1st April, 1964)	£1,253,012
Estimated product of a penny rate (year commencing 1st April, 1964)	£5,260

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	459
Live birth-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population..	19.0
Live birth-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population ..	19.0
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales	18.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.8
Still-births	4
Still-birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	8.6
Total live and still-births	463

Infant Mortality

Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	9
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	19.6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	20.0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate	18.3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate	45.4
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	19.6
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	13.8
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first week)	17.4
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	25.9

Maternal Mortality

Maternal deaths (including abortion) NIL
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births NIL
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births
for England and Wales 0.25

Deaths

Death-rate (unadjusted) per 1,000 population 8.7
Death-rate (adjusted) per 1,000 population 10.4
Death-rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales.. 11.3

Births

1964	Live Births			Still Births		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	230	207	437	3	1	4
Illegitimate	11	11	22	-	-	-
TOTALS	241	218	459	3	1	4

<u>DEATHS - Causes</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory System	0	0	0
Tuberculosis - other forms.. ..	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0
Cancer - all forms and other malignant neoplasms	20	19	39
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	9	21	30
Heart Diseases	29	48	77
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	4	10
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	6	6	12
Bronchitis	10	3	13
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	0	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	0	2
Congenital Malformations	1	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	2	4
Other Accidents	2	1	3
Suicide	1	0	1
Other causes	8	5	13
Totals	<u>98</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>209</u>

Note. No deaths occurred from Acute Poliomyelitis, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Meningococcal Infections, Pregnancy, Child-birth or Abortion.

The following tables show details of statistics for the years since 1941.

1. POPULATION, RATEABLE VALUE, etc.

Year	Number of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value at 31st March	Population (mid-year)
1921 (Census)	-	£ -	3135
1931 (Census)	-	-	5720
1941	4429	150,369	14850
1942	4429	153,210	14660
1943	4431	152,572	14290
1944	4432	152,896	14190
1945	4432	153,286	14270
1946	4554	152,792	15350
1947	4724	157,834	16120
1948	4837	162,743	16340
1949	5006	163,376	16540
1950	5028	168,364	16660
1951	5074	169,444	16800 (Estimate) 17163 (Census)
1952	5149	171,671	16970
1953	5247	174,831	17210
1954	5286	180,300	17620
1955	5485	187,121	17790
1956	5700	193,264	18910
1957	6400	332,572	20370
1958	6970	346,170	22000
1959	7219	366,460	22750
1960	7300	389,254	23140
1961	7500	405,349	23080 (Estimate) 23360 (Census)
1962	7559	422,417	23530
1963	7637	1,229,341 *	23870
1964	7685	1,253,012	24120

* New Valuation List came into force 1st April, 1963.

2. DEATH RATE, BIRTH RATE, etc. (unadjusted)

Year	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
1941	+	+	+
1942	9.9	17.1	23.9
1943	9.7	17.4	16.1
1944	8.9	20.6	30.8
1945	10.4	15.4	36.4
1946	8.7	18.4	14.1
1947	8.9	19.0	32.6
1948	7.8	17.7	6.9
1949	7.8	15.3	15.9
1950	8.4	15.2	19.8
1951	9.8	14.6	24.5
1952	8.9	13.8	21.3
1953	8.3	14.2	16.4
1954	7.4	14.0	12.1
1955	8.0	13.6	8.3
1956	9.2	15.7	27.0
1957	8.5	15.5	15.8
1958	7.7	18.1	10.1
1959	8.8	16.0	19.3
1960	8.1	17.1	20.2
1961	7.2	17.0	10.2
1962	8.4	16.7	10.2
1963	8.8	17.0	12.3
1964	8.7	19.0	19.6

+ Figures not available.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

The Council's Public Health and Housing Committee deals with all matters relating to Public Health including Slum Clearance, Improvement Grants, etc. Certain other functions of the department, however, are specifically referred to other Committees, e.g. work covered by the Shops Act and Petroleum Acts is dealt with by the General Purposes Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)

M.I. OUTRAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector & Housing Manager:
Inspector under the Petroleum Acts & Shops Act;

* J.H. ROOLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

* R.W. RIXSON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

L.A. DEAMER, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
resigned 10th June, 1964.

R.W.M. COOK, M.A.P.H.I.
commenced duties 27th July, 1964.

Rodent Operator:

J.W. BUTCHER.

* In addition to the basic qualification and diploma for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, these officers hold the under-mentioned diploma of the Royal Society of Health:-

Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The laboratory work of the Council was carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Central Public Health

Laboratory, Colindale, N.W.9. This laboratory is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

The specimens submitted by the Public Health Department were:-

Ice-Cream Samples	69
Stools	43

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is operated by the Middlesex County Council and vehicles are kept at various stations throughout the County. At the present time no vehicles operate from the Fire and Ambulance Station, Mutton Lane.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There is a domiciliary service of midwifery and general nursing in operation in the district provided by the Area Health Committee.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

There are two clinics - one at The Elms, High Street, Potters Bar, and one at the Welfare Centre, Mutton Lane. Both these centres are under the control of the Area Health Committee, and give facilities for ante-natal, maternity and child welfare, dental and chiropody services.

HOSPITALS

There are two hospitals within the district - Potters Bar and District Hospital, Mutton Lane, and the Clare Hall Hospital at South Mimms. They are controlled by the Barnet Group Hospital Management Committee.

Cases of infectious disease which require removal to hospital are normally sent to Coppett's Wood Hospital.

The Chest Clinic for the Potters Bar area is held at Clare Hall.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The district is supplied by the Lee Valley Water Company and all houses have a mains supply. During the year 460 samples representative of supply were taken for bacteriological examination, and 4 samples for chemical analysis

All the bacteriological samples were found to be free from Type I B. Coli in 100 m.l.

The water supply is not plumbo-solvent.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

On the sewerage system and sewage disposal the Engineer and Surveyor reports as follows:-

"Amongst the schemes for improvement of surface water drainage within the District was the completion of the sewer in The Causeway, which should materially improve surface water conditions in this area, and will cater for the new estates now in course of construction in the north-eastern part of the district.

The second improvement was the installation of the new pumping equipment at Darkes Lane bridge.

The third substantial scheme to deal with surface water problems between Darkes Lane and the High Street, and to cater for the considerable business and office development adjacent to the shopping area, has been prepared and approved by the Council during 1964, and subject to Ministerial approval, work is programmed to commence during the coming year.

The maintenance and repair work on soil sewers has followed the normal pattern. The problem of infiltration of surface water into soil sewers has been less evident this year, due probably to the reduction in rainfall. Nevertheless, the programme of inspection and rectifying defects has continued, and these improvements, coupled with the routine inspections and maintenance, have ensured that the soil and surface water systems have presented the minimum of problems during the past year.

Arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district are reasonably adequate."

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Engineer and Surveyor of the Council reports:-

"The present system of street cleansing has continued satisfactorily, although the problem of maintaining an adequate labour force is very real. All this work is carried out by direct labour with the exception of gully cleansing.

With the completion of new estates, coupled with the increased mileage of roads for which this Department will be responsible from 1st April, 1965, a revision of street sweeping and cleansing arrangements will become necessary. A new system based upon the use of a mechanical suction sweeper is at present under consideration by the Council.

The collection of both domestic and trade refuse is still carried out by contract. Messrs. D. Heath & Sons, Limited, have given full co-operation in maintaining an efficient system within the terms of the contract. During the year two new vehicles have been purchased and put into service by the Contractors. These vehicles - Eagle Crush Loaders - have a capacity of 50 cubic yards each and give dust-proof loading. They replace two vehicles of smaller capacity. The introduction of these vehicles has assisted considerably with the maintenance of an efficient weekly collection.

During the year it was necessary to amend arrangements for refuse disposal, as Messrs. D. Inns & Company, Limited, could not continue to provide facilities at Smallford. A new contract was negotiated with the St. Albans Sand & Gravel Company, Limited, for a 10 year period for tipping facilities at Roehyde and Smallford."

SWIMMING POOL

There is no public swimming pool in the district.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

In accordance with Section 153(1) of the Factories Act, 1961, particulars of factories and action taken under the Act are shown as an appendix to this report.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

(a) Removal to Hospital

In certain circumstances under Section 47 of this Act, the Medical Officer of Health may arrange the compulsory removal to hospital of aged or infirm persons who are not receiving proper care and attention. During 1964 it was not necessary to use these powers.

(b) Burial of the Dead

Under Section 50 of the Act, it is the responsibility of the District Council to arrange the burial or cremation of all persons who die in the district for whom no suitable arrangements otherwise would be made. No occasions arose during 1964 when it was necessary to use these powers.

SECTION D - Housing

(See page 18 of the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report).

SECTION E - Inspection and Supervision of Food

(See page 22 of the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report).

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

The notifiable diseases other than tuberculosis during the year, 1964, were:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Dysentery	1	-	-
Food Poisoning (Suspected)	1	-	-
Measles	27	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	34	1	-
TOTALS	66	2	-

The following figures show notifications of certain infectious diseases since 1941:-

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough
1941	23	4	0	271	137
1942	53	4	3	194	132
1943	35	0	0	280	51
1944	10	0	0	23	76
1945	14	0	0	287	22
1946	36	1	8	104	44
1947	11	0	3	51	58
1948	17	0	1	108	57
1949	11	0	1	278	43
1950	44	0	8	306	144
1951	15	0	3	179	67
1952	17	0	1	164	21
1953	22	0	1	381	142
1954	23	0	0	8	35
1955	4	0	1	537	9
1956	2	0	1	30	25
1957	6	0	0	301	16
1958	11	0	1	20	6
1959	5	0	1	698	9
1960	1	0	1	16	77
1961	0	0	2	440	3
1962	4	0	0	36	2
1963	4	0	0	413	21
1964	2	0	0	27	34

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES - 1964

Diseases	0-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	Over 65	Total 1964	Total 1963
Dysentery	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Food Poisoning (Suspected)	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Measles	17	9	1	-	-	27	413
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia - Acute	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	2	-	-	-	2	4
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	16	17	1	-	-	34	21
TOTALS	34	28	4	-	-	66	441

TUBERCULOSIS - 1964

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals 1964	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals 1963	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-

The numbers of persons on the tuberculosis register at the commencement and end of the year are shown in the following table, as the foregoing gives no indication of inward and outward transfers, or of persons cured.

1964	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Total on register at commencement of year	42	34	76	1	1	2	78
Total on register at end of year	48	38	86	1	1	2	88

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my report for the year 1964, and the following pages contain details of the various duties carried out by the Public Health and Housing Department.

In this introduction to the report I usually refer to any new legislation which affects the department. There were two new Acts during the year - firstly, the Housing Act, 1964 which, amongst many other provisions, contained very substantial changes in the procedure for dealing with Improvement Grants. One of the most important changes is the introduction of powers to enable local authorities to require the carrying out of improvement works, either by the declaration of an area as being suitable for comprehensive improvement or - in the case of individual dwellings - following representations which may be made to the Council by the tenant. More details of this subject are given in the appropriate section in later pages.

The second new Act was the Riding Establishments Act of 1964, and although the Council has appointed a Veterinary Officer to carry out the inspections in connection with the issue of licences, the general administration of the Act is carried out in the Public Health Department.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act of 1963 became operative in 1964, and as anticipated in last year's report, its administration caused a considerable amount of work to the department. Registration of the premises affected by the Act took place throughout the year, and towards the end of the year it was possible to commence the actual inspection of registered premises. Again, details are shown in a later section.

In October 1964, the Council sponsored a Local Government Exhibition which was held on the ground floor of Oakmere House. The services provided by the Public Health and Housing Department formed a prominent part of this Exhibition, and although space was very limited it was found possible to illustrate in model or photographic form several of the main functions of the department. These included housing in its various aspects, improvement grants, food administration, air pollution, infectious diseases, pest control, etc. Although attendances at the Exhibition were not so high as one would have wished, those members of the public who did attend expressed appreciation of the material shown.

In the introduction to my report of last year, I referred to the staff reorganizations which were to be put into effect during 1964. As anticipated, the appointment of a Senior Clerk in the clerical section gave a considerable amount of assistance to the Public Health Inspectors by relieving them of much routine clerical work, thus enabling them to devote more time to the practical duties for which their qualifications and experience are necessary. Unfortunately there were other staff changes during the year, including the resignation of Mr. L.A. Deamer, the Additional Public Health Inspector, and to some extent these partly offset the advantages gained by the general reorganization.

Finally I would take this opportunity of recording that all members of the department have given excellent service throughout the year and have worked well.

Your obedient servant,

J.H. ROOLEY

Chief Public Health Inspector

Slum Clearance

No progress was made with the Council's slum clearance programme during 1964. The purchase by the Council of the two blocks of unfit properties comprising 95/115, Southgate Road, and 170/182, Barnet Road, was completed. Rehousing of the occupants and the subsequent demolition and redevelopment of the sites will proceed in due course. With the exception of these two blocks of properties, only a few isolated houses, mainly farm houses or owner-occupied properties, remain to be considered for demolition.

Since the slum clearance programme started in 1955, 101 dwelling houses have been demolished or closed.

Repair

In addition to procedure under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, and inspections in connection with improvement grants, 19 primary inspections under the Public Health and Housing Acts were carried out mainly as a result of complaints received. These figures do not include those houses dealt with for choked drainage only and which numbered 54, being the houses affected by 21 blockages.

During the year defects at 28 dwelling houses were remedied after formal or informal action.

A summary of these repairs is given below:-

<u>Drainage</u>	<u>Number of Houses</u>
Drains relaid, repaired or improved	16
Drains unstopped (21 blockages)	54
Eavesgutters and downpipes repaired, renewed or unstopped	6
Soil and waste pipes repaired/renewed	1
Septic tank overhauled	1

Water Supply

Water supply re-instated	3
----------------------------------	---

Sanitary Conveniences

Flushing cisterns and/or flushpipes repaired or renewed	-
Water-closets renewed/repared	1

Miscellaneous RepairsNumber of
Houses

Staircases renewed/repaired	2
Roofs repaired or renewed	3
Underfloor ventilation provided or improved	1
Windows repaired or renewed	2
Floors repaired or renewed	3
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed	3
Dustbins provided	-
Ventilated food cupboards provided	-
Yard surface repaired	-
Sinks renewed/repaired	-
Kitchen range renewed/repaired	-
Doors renewed/repaired	2
Ventilation of rooms improved	-
Damp-proof courses provided	-
Brickwork repaired or renewed	5
Cills repaired or renewed	2
Miscellaneous repairs	-

Improvement Grants

Further important changes in the legal and administrative aspects of Improvement Grants are contained in the Housing Act, 1964, which came into force on the 17th August, 1964. This Act introduces powers to enable local authorities to require the improvement of property by declaring "Improvement Areas" and places a duty on them to inspect their districts to identify areas suitable for comprehensive improvement. In the case of dwellings outside a declared "Improvement Area" a tenant of a property may make representations to the Council, and these must be considered with a view to the service of an Improvement Notice on the owner. Other changes include the reduction from 10 years to 3 years in the time during which certain conditions are attached to a Grant, acceptance in certain cases of a "reduced" standard for Standard Grants and an increase in the amount of Standard Grant payable, and an increase in the upper limit from £400 to £500 in the amount of Discretionary Grant payable in the case of conversions.

It is estimated that less than 2% of the privately owned dwelling houses in the Urban District are without the five basic amenities, or are sufficiently deficient to warrant the carrying out of an improvement scheme. These properties are widely scattered throughout the district, approximately 20% are owner-occupied, and with perhaps one possible exception no single owner owns more than a handful of tenanted houses. It is doubtful, therefore, if any part of the district is suitable to be declared an improvement area under the Housing Act, 1964. The steps taken to secure the improvement of property continued to be persuasive.

During the year, 8 formal applications for discretionary improvement grants and one application for a standard grant were received and approved. An application to convert two houses into one was refused. Details of the applications approved are given below:-

Discretionary Grants

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Nature of Improvements</u>	<u>Cost & Amount of grant</u>
16, Cotton Road	Provision of bath, wash hand basin and water closet and hot water supply to bathroom	£460 (£230)
1/2, Homestead Villas, Galley Lane. (2 cottages)	Provision of bath, wash hand basin and internal water closet and hot and cold water supplies to the various appliances in each cottage.	£881.16.8d. (£440.18.4d.)
1/5, Railway Cotts. Wagon Road. (5 cottages)	Provision of a bathroom comprising a bath, water closet and wash hand basin; domestic hot water supply and fuel store in each cottage and construction or re-instatement of larders in Nos. 1/4.	£2,951.6.0d. (£1,475.13.0d.)

Standard Grants

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Nature of Improvements</u>	<u>Amount of Grant</u>
44, Blanche Lane	Provision of a bath, wash hand basin and water closet; domestic hot water supply and ventilated food store.	£155

In addition to the above the scheme for the improvement of 88 Council owned houses in Cranborne Road was completed during the year. The Council also approved a scheme for the improvement of 96 houses in Cranborne Crescent.

Certificates of Disrepair

During the year, there were several enquiries concerning rent control and procedure under the Rent Act, 1957, but no official applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Housing Management

For the second successive year no new Council dwellings were completed. The two sites referred to in last year's report, in Barnet Road and Southgate Road, were acquired, however, and these are to be redeveloped. Plans for the development of the Mutton Lane Site also were finalised and it is expected that work will commence during 1965.

The Improvement Scheme for Cranborne Road houses was completed and arrangements were made to start a further Scheme in connection with fireplaces and hot water systems at 96 houses in Cranborne Crescent. The programme of renewing and modernising electrical installations at pre-war houses continued and by the end of the year there were only a few houses at which this work had not been done.

Improvement Schemes for Cecil Cottages were prepared and, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, it was also decided to use the land at the rear together with some of the gardens, for housing development. As this new development could be used to provide alternative accommodation for tenants who would be disturbed by the Improvement Scheme, it was decided to carry out the new building before commencing the works to Cecil Cottages.

Only 23 families were housed from the waiting list during the year. This is the lowest total since 1945. Twenty-nine transfers were effected, however - some of these being from "under-occupied" properties to smaller accommodation. Following a survey of Council houses, which revealed many cases of "under-occupation" the Council decided to encourage tenants to move to single bedroom bungalows or flats.

At the end of the year the position of the waiting list was:-

General	246
Aged Persons	96
Single Persons	18
	<hr/>
Total	360

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine work in connection with the inspection of food establishments and vehicles and in the general supervision of the food supplies continued during the year.

347 inspections and other visits were made to the various food premises, vehicles, etc. in which food was prepared, stored or sold. 44 informal notices under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960, were served during 1964, and 25 informal notices were complied with during the year.

The tables that follow show at the 31st December, 1964, the principal food trades in the district, and the number registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Catering Establishments

(a)	Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	22)	47
(b)	School Meals Centres	12)	
(c)	Works Canteens	6)	
(d)	Hospital and Institution Kitchens.. .. .	7)	
Bakehouses	2		
Butchers	17		
Fishmongers	4		
Grocers	33		
Greengrocers	12		
Milk Distributing Depots	3		
Bakers and Confectioners	5		
Public Houses	13		
Sweet Shops	18		

Ice-cream:-

Manufacturers	NIL
Vendors only (Registered)	43

Number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Storage, sale or manufacture of ice-cream	43
Manufacture of sausages	12
Boiling of hams	8
Cooking of poultry	3
Frying of fish	2
	<u>68</u>

Below is a classification of the visits paid to food establishments and vehicles:-

<u>Type of premises</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Cafes, licensed premises, etc.	145
Bakehouses	6
Butchers' shops	37
Milk Depots	4
Other food premises	147
Milk and other food delivery vehicles, hawkers, etc. ..	8

A record of improvements effected at the various food establishments as a result of these visits is shown below:-

<u>Food Hyg. Reg.</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>
8. Risk of contamination of food removed	2
8. Food removed from display at floor level	1
9. Standard of cleanliness of persons and clothing improved	1
12. Drainage system in food rooms improved	1
14. Food removed from room connecting directly with room containing sanitary convenience	2
14. "Wash your hands" notice in sanitary convenience provided	4
14. Sanitary conveniences cleansed and repaired ..	2
16. Soap, nail brushes and clean towels or other drying facilities provided at or near wash basins	2
16. Adequate supply of hot water to wash basin provided	1
16. Wash-hand basin made conveniently accessible ..	1
17. First aid materials provided	4
18. Suitable and sufficient accommodation for clothing and footwear provided	2
19. Sinks renewed	1
23. Food rooms cleansed	11
23. Floors repaired or renewed	1
23. Food preparation table improved	1
27. Suitable and sufficient covered receptacles for storage of trade refuse provided	5

Certificates of Exemption

No Certificates of Exemption under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960, were issued during the year.

Ice-Cream

Again this year, no ice-cream was manufactured in the district. Supplies to retail shops were obtained from two well known manufacturers outside the district, and as usual there were several itinerant traders retailing within the district from premises outside.

Three new applications for registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of ice-cream were received and approved, and at the end of the year there were 43 premises registered.

During 1964, 69 samples of ice-cream were obtained and subjected to the methylene blue test at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale. The results were as follow:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	
	<u>Grade 1</u>	<u>Grade 2</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grade 4</u>
Samples from retail premises	56	12	-	-
Samples from itinerant vendors	1	-	-	-
	57	12	-	-
	(82.6%)	(17.4%)	-	-

Food Poisoning

During the year one case of suspected food poisoning was notified and 11 other cases ascertained as a result of the investigation which followed. Further cases in other districts were subsequently reported, and altogether there were 30 known cases out of a total of 90 persons at risk.

The outbreak occurred after a wedding reception which was held at an hotel in an adjoining district. The names and addresses of all guests were obtained, and where the addresses were outside Potters Bar the Health Department of the Authorities concerned were informed and invited to co-operate in the investigation. Stool specimens were taken from those patients in Potters Bar showing symptoms and a number of patients living in other districts, but no food poisoning organisms were isolated.

A full investigation at the hotel in which the wedding reception was held was carried out by the Public Health Department of the Authority concerned. This included the collection of food samples and pathological specimens from staff engaged in food handling. The only clue found was the presence of staphylococcus aureus in a sample of frozen Chilean prawns, but as the time interval before onset of symptoms was rather long, it was not considered conclusive.

Inspection of Food

The table following shows the food which was examined and found unfit for human consumption and subsequently surrendered and destroyed:-

Unsound Food - 1964

					<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>	<u>pints.</u>	<u>No.</u>
Home Killed Meat	..	..	..	..	95	4		
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	65	-		
Bacon	..	..	..	..	25	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Frozen Ox Cheek	..	..	..	..	28	-		
Cooked Meats	..	..	..	..	31	15		
Corned Beef	..	..	..	..	6	-		
Tinned Meat	..	..	..	..	65	8 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Tinned Fish	..	..	..	..	1	7 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Tinned Fruit	..	..	..	..	102	5		
Tinned Vegetables	..	..	..	..	84	4		
Tinned Treacle	..	..	..	..	2	-		
Tinned Jam	..	..	..	..	2	-		
Tinned Marmalade	..	..	..	..	1	13		
Tinned Milk Pudding	..	..	..	..	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Tinned Cream	..	..	..	..	-	4		
Tinned Milk	..	..	..	..	-	-	4	
Fruit Pie - Individual	..	..	..	..	-	-	-	1

4 cwts. 2 qtrs. 9 lbs. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs. 4 pts.+ 1

In addition, as a result of a breakdown in the refrigeration unit at a large retail shop, large quantities of frozen foods were examined. The firm did not intend to subject the foodstuffs affected to heat treatment or any other prescribed form of treatment, and as a consequence the following were condemned and disposed of under supervision of a Public Health Inspector.

	£.	s.	d.
Ice-Cream to the value of	5	13	4
Frozen Pastries to the value of	6	13	0
Frozen Fruit to the value of	8	12	5
Frozen Fish to the value of	3	4	0
	<hr/>		
Total Value	£24	2	9
	<hr/>		

Slaughterhouses

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the district.

Food and Drugs Adulteration, etc.

These duties were carried out by the Middlesex County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority for the area, and until recently a very comprehensive and interesting report on the work carried out in Potters Bar was contributed by the Chief Officer of the Public Control Department of the County. It is regretted, however, that due to the administrative upheaval associated with the transfer of functions under the London Government Act, 1963, the usual report on this aspect of food administration cannot appear.

During the year sixteen food complaints were received in the Public Health Department, and most of these were concerned with foreign matter in foodstuffs. Seven of the complaints were referred to the Middlesex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and nine were investigated by the department. In no case where the complaints were investigated by the Public Health Department was it felt necessary to resort to legal proceedings, but warnings were given where necessary.

RODENT CONTROL, 1964

In the year under review 141 notifications of rats and/or mice were received and investigated compared with 113 during 1963. The number of primary surveys carried out as a routine measure or associated with notifications was 195 compared with 228 in 1963, and the total number of treatments was 113 compared with 92 last year.

As in previous years, the methods of eradication employed were in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The types of infestation encountered followed the usual pattern - gardens, yards and outbuildings attached to dwelling houses predominating.

Below is a summary of the work carried out by the department during 1964:-

Number of primary surveys carried out

by (a) notification	141) 195
(b) otherwise	54	

Total number of visits made in connection with Rodent Control

(a) by Public Health Inspectors	151) 1085
(b) by Rodent Operator	934	

Number of separate treatments carried out

	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) by Local Authority	100	7	107
(b) by Occupiers	6	-	6
	<u>106</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>113</u>

Number of cases where no infestation was found .. 88

The details that follow show the types of infestation dealt with by Local Authority:-

	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dwelling Houses	3	1	4
Gardens and Yards (including outbuildings)	77	-	77
Sewers and drains	-	-	-
Agricultural Property	1	-	1
Schools (including Meals Centres)	-	1	1
Shop Premises	3	-	3
Building Sites	-	-	-
Other Premises	16	5	21
	<u>100</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>107</u>

Details of action taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949:-

Number of informal notices served in respect of

(a) treatments	15)	} 15
(b) structural work (proofing)	-					

Number of statutory notices served -

Legal proceedings instituted -

Premises rat-proofed -

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

The work carried out by the department in connection with the eradication of insect pests, other than wasps, was confined almost entirely to advisory measures. At four houses, however, there were infestations of cimex lectularius (bed-bugs) which were effectively dealt with.

Wasps' nests were treated by the department at 35 premises and advice was offered in many other cases.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Urban District is not within an area defined as a "black area", and it has no industrial smoke problem. It has, however, the usual problem from dwelling houses.

Clean Air Act, 1956

(a) Smoke Control Areas

On 28th January, 1964, the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed the Potters Bar Urban District No. 1 Smoke Control Order, 1963. This Order, which refers to an area comprising the whole of the Edmonton Borough Council housing estate plus a few private houses and commercial premises on the west side of Barnet Road, became operative on the 1st October, 1964. In August, 1964, the Council resolved to revoke the Order, but subsequently withdrew the Revocation Order on being satisfied that there would be sufficient supplies of open fire smokeless fuels for the future maintenance of supplies in the area.

Four applications for grant for the adaptation or conversion of grates were received and approved. The total cost of this work was £101.1.9d. Seven-tenths of this amount was subsequently paid in grant.

(b) Smoke Nuisances (Section 16)

Only infrequently is it found necessary to take any action in regard to smoke nuisances. No serious cases occurred during the year.

(c) Building Byelaw re. heating and cooking appliances

A building byelaw made under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act was adopted by the Council in 1957. This Byelaw is designed to ensure that domestic appliances installed in new buildings are capable of burning smokeless fuels or are otherwise capable of smokeless operation.

(d) New Furnaces (Section 3)

All applications under Section 3 (2) for the prior approval of new furnaces are dealt with jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself, but during the year no applications were received.

No notifications under Section 3 (3) regarding the installation of a new furnace were received.

(e) Height of Chimneys (Section 10)

Plans of new buildings (other than dwellings, shops and offices) which indicate the proposed erection of a chimney, are examined jointly by the Engineer and Surveyor and myself. During the year, no such plans were received.

(f) National Survey of Air Pollution

In 1961, the Council agreed to the request of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research to co-operate in a national survey of atmospheric pollution, and for this purpose set up 2 air pollution measurement stations. These were established at Wyllyotts Manor and, in collaboration with the Education Office, at Mount Grace School.

At each of these sites apparatus is installed to measure the concentration of smoke and sulphur-dioxide in the atmosphere. Readings are taken daily and are sent for analysis to the Warren Springs Laboratory at Stevenage at the end of every 4 or 5-week period. Readings taken throughout the country are subsequently tabulated etc., and published monthly by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The main provisions of this Act which are designed to safeguard the health, welfare and safety of all persons employed in offices, shops and warehouses, railway premises, etc., came into operation on the 1st August, 1964. Immediately prior to this date, all premises affected by the Act were required to be registered.

The following information is taken from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Labour for the period ended 31st December, 1964:-

No. of registered premises:-

Offices	55
Retail shops.. .. .	146
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	19
Fuel Storage depots	<u>Nil</u>
Total	<u>223</u>

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises

<u>Class of workplace</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	439
Retail shops.. .. .	749
Wholesale departments, warehouses	102
Catering establishments open to the public	113
Canteens	6
Fuel Storage premises	<u>Nil</u>
Total	<u>1409</u>

Total males 641
" females 768

No. of primary inspections made	64
No. of other inspections or visits	<u>40</u>
	<u>104</u>

Applications for exemptions:-

Space (Section 5 (2))	Nil
Temperature (Section 6)	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9)	Nil
Washing facilities (Section 10)	Nil
Prosecutions	Nil

Towards the end of the year a start was made on the inspection of registered premises and at 44 of the 64 premises inspected contraventions of the Act were found and informal notices were served to secure compliance.

DRAINAGE

During the year 21 choked drainage systems involving 54 premises were dealt with by the department, and at 16 premises the drainage systems were repaired, reconstructed or enlarged.

NOISE ABATEMENT

With the coming into operation of the Noise Abatement Act, 1960, "noise or vibration which is a nuisance" can be dealt with as a statutory nuisance for the purposes of Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936. In the case of a nuisance of the kind produced in the course of a trade or business it is a defence for the defendant to prove that the best practicable means have been used for preventing, and for counteracting the effect of, the noise or vibration.

During the year complaints were received in respect of noise from 7 premises and altogether 59 visits were made to investigate them. Four of these complaints concerned factory machinery, two of noise at night from loading vehicles, and one of a dog barking. In no case was a statutory noise nuisance established, but, notwithstanding this, informal approaches were made to those concerned in all cases. In most cases, if not all, improvements resulted.

MISCELLANEOUS

Caravan Sites

At the commencement of the year there were five licensed caravan sites in the district on which a total of six caravans were authorised. With the exception of one site with permanent planning permission all hold short term planning consents varying from two to five years. No new applications were granted during the year.

The position at Nursery Farm where a short term site licence expired on the 30th November, 1962, was still not resolved at the end of the year. Further action was held in abeyance pending the determination of an Appeal to the Minister of Housing and Local Government made by the site occupier. The date of the Appeal was fixed for the end of September, but it was withdrawn immediately prior to the hearing. Inspections revealed that the occupier of one caravan had vacated the site and the caravan remained empty, and the other caravan, although furnished, was not in regular use by the site occupier. That was the situation at the end of the year.

Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

One factory in which the manufacture of soft furnishings is carried on is registered under the above Act.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two applications for licences to keep pet shops were received during the year, and at each shop conditions were found to be satisfactory and licences were issued.

Street Trading

No formal applications under the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944, for street trading licences were received.

Shops Act, 1950

Inspection duties under the Shops Act are usually combined with those under other headings carried out at shop premises, but many enquiries are dealt with usually in connection with hours of closing, Sunday trading, etc.

Further consideration was given by the Council to the desirability of revoking the existing Orders which fix the weekly half holiday in Potters Bar shops, but in the absence of any information which was likely to lead to a majority agreement among the various classes of trader, no action was taken.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

A survey of agricultural units under the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956, was carried out during the year. Eighteen such units were inspected but in only one case, where there was no sanitary accommodation, was it felt necessary to take action.

Consumer Protection Act, 1961

This Act, which came into operation on the 19th August, 1961, repealed the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952. No action was needed during the year.

Petroleum Acts and Regulations

The Council's various functions under the Acts and Regulations dealing with the storage of petroleum spirit, petroleum mixtures and other substances subject to licence control, are also administered by the Public Health Department.

During 1964, one new licence was approved - for the storage of 14,000 gallons at a new Service Station. The licences in respect of two premises were transferred to new occupiers and work was in progress at another Service Station where a licence for considerably increased storage previously had been approved.

All new tanks are tested at the time of installation (usually by air pressure) and existing tanks are tested periodically in accordance with the terms of the particular licence (usually by ullage test). During 1964, 22 tanks at 7 premises were tested prior to the renewal of licences.

At the end of the year 31 licences were in force and these permitted a total storage capacity of 127,200 gallons.

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Visits and Inspections made during the Year

Visits and inspections under the Public Health Acts	871
Visits and inspections under the Housing Acts	231
Visits and inspections under the Food and Drugs Act	344
Visits and inspections under the Factories Act	108
Visits and inspections under the Petroleum Acts and Regulations	132
Visits and inspections under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	104
Shops Act visits and inspections	20
Visits and inspections re Infectious Diseases	66
Visits and inspections under the Rent Act	7

Visits and inspections re Rodent Control

(by Public Health Inspectors)	151
(by Rodent Operator)	934
Administrative visits	148
Rehousing visits, etc.,	9
Inspections under the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act	26
Visits under Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act	22
Visits under Pet Animals Act	1
Visits under Rag Flock Act	-
Visits under Clean Air Act	22
Visits under M.C.C. Act	21
Visits under Noise Abatement Act	59
Miscellaneous visits	<u>183</u>
Total visits and inspections	<u>3459</u>

Details of Formal and Informal Action

Number of premises etc., in respect of which verbal notices were given	126
Number of premises etc., where improvements were effected following verbal notices	82
Number of premises etc., in respect of which written Informal Notices were served	43
Number of premises etc., where improvements were effected following service of written Informal Notices ..	17

Statutory Notices served:-

Clean Air Act, 1956

Notice requiring the carrying out of adaptations (Section 12 (2))	2
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Legal Proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.Part I1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	3	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	68	1	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	9	NIL	NIL
Total	96	80	1	NIL

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	1	NIL	1	NIL
Total	4	1	NIL	1	NIL

Part VIII

Outwork (Sections 133 & 134)

Making, Cleaning, Washing etc. of Wearing Apparel	27
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